

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 451 of 1994

324.36111 Expiration or relinquishment of development rights agreement.

Sec. 36111. (1) A development rights agreement expires at the expiration of the term of the agreement unless renewed with the consent of the owner of the land. If the owner of the land has complied with the requirements of this part regarding development rights agreements, the owner is entitled to automatic renewal of the farmland covered by the agreement upon written request of the owner. A development rights agreement may be renewed for a term of not less than 7 years. If a development rights agreement is renewed, the state land use agency shall send a copy of the renewal contract to the local governing body of the local unit of government in which the farmland is located.

(2) A development rights agreement or a portion of the farmland covered by a development rights agreement may be relinquished as provided in this section and section 36111a. Farmland may be relinquished by this state before a termination date contained in the instrument under either of the following circumstances:

(a) If approved by the local governing body and the state land use agency, land containing structures that were present before the recording of the development rights agreement may be relinquished from the agreement. Not more than 2 acres may be relinquished under this subdivision unless additional land area is needed to encompass all of the buildings located on the parcel, in which case not more than 5 acres may be relinquished. If the parcel proposed to be relinquished is less in area than the minimum parcel size required by local zoning, the parcel may not be relinquished unless a variance is obtained from the local zoning board of appeals to allow for the smaller parcel size.

(b) If approved by the local governing body and the state land use agency, land may be relinquished from the agreement for the construction of a residence by an individual essential to the operation of the farm as defined in section 36110(5). Not more than 2 acres may be relinquished under this subdivision. If the parcel proposed to be relinquished is less in area than the minimum parcel size required by local zoning, the parcel may not be relinquished unless a variance is obtained from the local zoning board of appeals to allow for the smaller parcel size.

(3) Until April 1, 1997, if an owner who entered into or renewed a development rights agreement before April 15, 1994 makes a request, in writing, to the state land use agency, to terminate that development rights agreement with respect to all or a portion of the farmland covered by the agreement, the state land use agency shall approve the request and relinquish that farmland from the development rights agreement. If farmland is relinquished under this subsection, the state land use agency shall notify the local governing body of the local unit of government in which the land is located of the relinquishment.

(4) If the request for relinquishment of the development rights agreement is approved, the state land use agency shall prepare an instrument, subject to subsections (5), (6), (7), and (8), and record it with the register of deeds of the county in which the land is situated.

(5) If a development rights agreement or a portion of a development rights agreement is to be relinquished pursuant to subsection (2) or section 36111a, the state land use agency shall record a lien against the property formerly subject to the development rights agreement for the total amount of the allocated tax credit of the last 7 years, including the year of termination, received by an owner for that property under the agreement under section 36109, attributable to the property formerly subject to the development rights agreement, plus interest at the rate of 6% per annum simple interest from the time the credit was received until the lien is placed on the property.

(6) If the property being relinquished from the development rights agreement is less than all of the property subject to that development rights agreement, the allocated tax credit for the development rights agreement shall be multiplied by the property's share of the taxable value of the agreement. As used in this subsection:

(a) "The allocated tax credit" means the amount obtained by multiplying the owner's total farmland preservation credit claimed in that year on all agreements by the quotient of the ad valorem property tax levied in that year on property subject to the development rights agreement that included the property being relinquished from the agreement divided by the total property taxes levied on property subject to any development rights agreement and used in determining the farmland preservation credit in that year.

(b) "The property's share of the taxable value of the agreement" means the quotient of the taxable value of the property being relinquished from the agreement divided by the total taxable value of property subject to the development rights agreement that included the property being relinquished from the agreement. For years before 1995, taxable value means assessed value.

(7) Thirty days before the recording of a lien under this section, the state land use agency shall notify the owner of the farmland subject to the development rights agreement of the amount of the lien, including interest, if any. If the lien amount is paid before 30 days after the owner is notified, the lien shall not be

recorded. The lien may be paid and discharged at any time and is payable to the state by the owner of record at the time the land or any portion of it is sold by the owner of record, or if the land is converted to a use prohibited by the former development rights agreement. The lien shall be discharged upon renewal or reentry in a development rights agreement, except that a subsequent lien shall not be less than the lien discharged.

(8) Upon the termination of all or a portion of the development rights agreement under subsection (3), the termination of a development rights agreement under subsection (13), or, subject to subsection (15), the termination of a development rights agreement under subsection (1), the state land use agency shall prepare and record a lien, if any, against the property formerly subject to the development rights agreement for the total amount of the allocated tax credit of the last 7 years, including the year of termination, received by the owner under section 36109, attributable to the property formerly subject to the development rights agreement. The lien shall be without interest or penalty and is payable subject to subsection (7).

(9) Upon termination of a development rights agreement, the state land use agency shall notify the department of treasury for their records.

(10) Until October 1, 2000, the proceeds from lien payments made under this part shall be used by the state land use agency to administer this part and, pursuant to section 36111b, to purchase development rights on farmland that does not necessitate direct purchase of the fee interest in the land. Beginning on October 1, 2000, the unappropriated proceeds from lien payments made under this part shall be forwarded to the state treasurer for deposit in the agricultural preservation fund created in section 36202. On October 1, 2000, all unexpended proceeds from lien payments made under this part that are held by the state shall be transferred to the agricultural preservation fund created in section 36202.

(11) Upon the relinquishment of all of the farmland under section 36110(2) or a portion of the farmland under section 36110(3), the state land use agency shall prepare and record a lien against the property formerly subject to a development rights agreement in an amount calculated as follows:

(a) Establishing a term of years by multiplying 7 by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of years the farmland was under the development rights agreement, including any extensions, and the denominator of which is the number representing the term of years of that agreement, including any extensions.

(b) The lien amount equals the total amount of the allocated tax credit claimed attributable to that development rights agreement in the immediately preceding term of years as determined in subdivision (a).

(12) When a lien is paid under this section, the state land use agency shall prepare and record a discharge of lien with the register of deeds in the county in which the land is located. The discharge of lien shall specifically state that the lien has been paid in full, that the lien is discharged, that the development rights agreement and accompanying contract are terminated, and that the state has no further interest in the land under that agreement.

(13) An owner of farmland, upon written request to the state land use agency on or before April 1, 1997, may elect to have the remaining term of the development rights agreement reduced to 7 years if the farmland has been subject to that development rights agreement for 10 or more years. If the farmland has not been subject to a development rights agreement for 10 or more years, an owner of farmland may, upon written request to the state land use agency on or before April 1, 1997, elect to have the term of the development rights agreement reduced to 17 years from the initial year of enrollment.

(14) A farmland development rights agreement is automatically relinquished when the farmland becomes subject to an agricultural conservation easement or purchase of development rights under section 36111b or 36206.

(15) If, upon expiration of the term of a farmland development rights agreement, the farmland becomes subject to an agricultural conservation easement or purchase of development rights under section 36111b or 36206 or if a farmland development rights agreement is automatically relinquished under subsection (14), the farmland is not subject to a lien under this section.

History: Add. 1995, Act 59, Imd. Eff. May 24, 1995;—Am. 1995, Act 173, Imd. Eff. Oct. 9, 1995;—Am. 1996, Act 233, Imd. Eff. June 5, 1996;—Am. 1996, Act 567, Imd. Eff. Jan. 16, 1997;—Am. 2000, Act 262, Imd. Eff. June 29, 2000;—Am. 2002, Act 75, Imd. Eff. Mar. 15, 2002.

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